

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: WIPO, AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP MEETING ON WIPO BUDGET

REF: (A) GENEVA 7330, (B) GENEVA 7288

SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP MET ON SEPTEMBER 27 TO REVIEW
WIPO BUDGET. GROUP DID NOT ACCEPT US PROPOSAL TO
IMPOSE PERCENTAGE LIMITATION ON SIZE OF BUDGET INCREASES.
GROUP DID NOWEVER AGREE TO PROPOSED REDUCTION IN
PROVISION IN BUDGET FOR INFLATION. END SUMMARY.

1. GENEVA GROUP MET AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 27, OPENING DAY
OF WIPO ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES MEETING, TO DISCUSS PRO-
POSED WIPO BUDGET. AGENDA TOPICS WERE THOSE SUGGESTED
BY CANADIANS (SEE REFTTEL KA)). AND SWISS ITEM ON THEIR
ADVANCES TO WIPO.

2. ON FORMAT OF BUDGET DOCUMENT CANDAIANS WONDERED IF IT
COULD BE PRESENTED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD ALLOW
COUNTRIES TO EVALUATE READILY EFFECTIVENESS OF WIPO
PROGRAMS. FRG HAD NO PROBLEM WITH LAYOUT OF BUDGET DOCUMENT.
US AND UK OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
EVALUATE WIPO PROGRAMS IN WAY CANADAINS WOULD LIKE GIVEN
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THEIR INTANGIBLE AND ABSTRACT NATURE.

3. ON ASSISSMENT OF MARCH 1976 MEETING OF BUDGET SPECIALISTS, CANADA WANTED TO KNOW IF BUDGET SPECIALISTS RECOMMENDATIONS WERE REFLECTED IN BUDGET DOCUMENT. US NOTED THAT AGREAT MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT INCOROPORATED IN THE DOCUMENT AND THAT WE DID NOT FEEL BOUND TO ACCEPT DOCUMENT BECAUSE US SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATED IN MEETING. UK REGRETTEED THAT PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED BUDGET SPECIALIST MEETINGS WERE NOT FINACNCE SPECIALISTS AS IT HAD ENVISAGED WHEN IT PROPOSED MEETING.

4. ON EVALUATION OF SIZE OF BUDGET CANADIANS NOTED THAT PROVISION FOR INFLATION IN BUDGET WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN ACTUAL RATE OF INFLATION IN SWITZERLAND. UK RECOMMENDED THAT TO EXTENT THAT PROVISION FOR INFLATION WAS IN EXCESS OF ACTUAL RATE, DG SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNT-ABLE FOR THESE FUNDS. THIS PROPOSAL WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED.

5. US FLOATED IDEA OF IMPOSING SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE LIMITATION ON SIZE OF WIPO BUDGET INCREASE AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE 8 PERCENT FIGURE. WE COMMENTED THAT IT SHOULD BE LEFT TO DG'S DISCRETION WHERE THE CUTS SHOULD BE MADE. ONLY CANADIANS SAID THAT THEY COULD GO ALONG WITH PROPOSAL. ITALY SAID THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT AUTOMATIC LIMITATION. NETHERLANDS NOTED POSITION IN GENEVA GROUP GENERAL. JAPAN SAID THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF PURSUEING FRENCH PROPOSAL, BUT HAD DOUBTS ABOUT TAKING UP SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION AT THIS TIME. UK STRESSED MAKING EXAMPLE OF WIPO WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE SINCE IT IS A RELATIVELY EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION. GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THUS NOT IF FAVOR OF PROPOSING SPECIFIC PERCENT LIMITATION ON SIZE OF BUDGET INCREASES. COMMENT: IN RETROSPECT IDEA HAD NO CHANCE OCESS SINCE IT WAS NOT RAISED EARLY ENOUGH TO BE FULLY DISCUSSED IN CAPITALS.

6. SWISS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL PROBLEMS THEY ARE HAVING GETTING FROM WIPO ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION TO JUSTIFY WIPO'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE NEW BUILDING. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY STRESSED NECESSITY OF THIS DOCUMENTATION IF THEY ARE GOING TO SUBMIT REQUEST TO THEIR PARLIAMENT FOR ANOTHER LOAN TO COVER INCREASED COST OF BUILDING DUE TO INFLATION

7. ON GENERAL SERVICES SALARY INCREASE CANADIANS OBJECTED THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE IN WIPO DOCUMENT OF THESE INCREASES. UK AND FRG STRESSED THAT SUCH INCREASES SHOULD BE ABSORBED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS

AND THAT WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT WIPO HAD DONE SO.

8. CANADIANS NOTED THAT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE INSISTED THAT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION NOT BE FUNDED OUT OF REGULAR BUDGET BUT HAVE ALLOWED THIS IN WIPO. US SAID THAT IT HAS MADE AN EXCEPTION FOR WIPO GIVEN THAT MANDATORY ASSESSMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ARE PROVIDED FOR IN BASIC WIPO CONVENTION. FURTHERMORE CATEGORY I COUNTRIES PAY ONLY FOUR PERCENT EACH OF WIPO BUDGET AND ARE THEREFORE SPENDING LESS ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION THAN IF PROGRAM FINANCED FROM VOLUNTARY FUNDS. UK SAID IT NOT IN FAVOR OF PUTTING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM ON VOLUNTARY BASIS AS THIS WOULD OPEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO MORAL BLACKMAIL.

9. GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS SAW NO PROBLEM WITH GIVING WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY TO CALL EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES.

10. SWISS BRIEFED MEETING ON THEIR DISPUTE WITH WIPO OVER WHETHER OR NOT WIPO SHOULD PAY INTEREST ON THE ADVANCES SWISS GOVERNMENT MAKES TO IT. UK, AND NETHERLANDS SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT A SWISS PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE WIPO TO PAY INTEREST BUT THAT THEY WOULD ALSO NOT SUPPORT AN EFFORT TO TELL WIPO THAT IT SHOULD NOT PAY INTERESTS ON THESE ADVANCES. CATTO

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